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Sent: 2/14/2018 2:28:23 PM

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Subject: Flint clips, February 14, 2018

Flint Clips US EPA Region 5 – prepared by the Office of Public Affairs Flint clips, February 14, 2018

Michigan Radio Tests show some high lead levels in Flint schools

Mlive Most Flint schools water tests OK for lead, but problems found in 5 of 9 buildings

http://michiganradio.org/post/tests-show-some-high-lead-levels-flint-schools

Tests show some high lead levels in Flint schools

By STEVE CARMODY • 14 HOURS AGO

New tests show lead is still a concern in the water in Flint schools.

Two-thirds of the more than 700 recent water samples taken at Flint's 13 school buildings came back with no detectable levels of lead. But about 3% of the samples tested at or above the federal action level of 15 parts per billion. The highest spikes were recorded at Doyle Ryder Elementary.

Flint Mayor Karen Weaver says she's encouraged by the overall test results, but she says the testing shows there is "still more work that needs to be done."

"We want residents to be involved, and be part of the process as we work to resolve this issue," Weaver says. "We should all be doing what we can to make sure our children are safe."

Flint schools are still receiving bottled water donations, though that is only set to continue through June.

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2018/02/most flint school sites ok for.html

Most Flint schools water tests OK for lead, but problems found in 5 of 9 buildings

Updated 1:08 PM; Posted 1:08 PM

By Ron Fonger

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FLINT, MI -- More than 97 percent of water tests in Flint Community Schools buildings this year were below the federal action level for lead, but five of nine schools had at least one test that exceeded that threshold.

New results posted by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Tuesday, Feb. 13, detail the findings from 705 unfiltered water samples, the first testing in Flint public school buildings since 2016.

Since three Flint school buildings tested above the federal action limit for lead — 15 parts per billion — in late 2015, students have used bottled water rather than fountains or faucets in public city schools.

The most concerning news from the new testing showed 14 of 93 tests inside Doyle Ryder Elementary School registered lead levels of 15 ppb or more with two sites registering more than 100 ppb.

Flint schools Superintendent Bilal Tawwab issued a statement to MLive-The Flint Journal, saying the district "is eager to continue our work with the state, the mayor's office, medical experts and Flint residents to analyze and continue water testing moving forward."

"These results offer a good baseline from which we hope to see continued improvements in water quality in the district," Tawwab's statement says.

MLive-The Flint Journal could not immediately reach Kristin Moore, a spokeswoman for Mayor Karen Weaver, for comment.

Built in 1981, Doyle Ryder is a 67,000-square-foot building, which was constructed for \$5.5 million to serve a potential population of 650 students, according to the FCS website.

The DEQ said follow-up testing will continue at Doyle Ryder and other Flint schools to find and fix high lead readings.

"This is the first of three rounds of testing, and we will be conducting additional follow up and testing ... (The) purpose/reason testing of the schools was so important was so that we could identify any potential issues and address them," DEQ spokeswoman Tiffany Brown said in an email to The Journal.

Other results posted by the state Tuesday showed three tests above 15 ppb of lead at Neithercut Elementary; one test above that level at Durant Tuuri Mott Elementary, Brownell Stem Academy and Potter Elementary; and no site at or above that level at Homes Stem Academy as well as Pierce, Eisenhower and Freeman elementaries.

First-round water samples from four additional Flint schools are still being analyzed, according to a summary DEQ report, and the second round of tests -- which were delayed due to weather earlier this month -- is expected to be carried out Saturday, Feb. 17.

Water samples are being collected before and after water is flushed in the schools, according to the DEQ.

"Pre-flush samples are samples where we don't know how long the water has been stagnate/sitting (it could be one day, week, one month, one year)," Brown said in her email. "So we do the testing to get a baseline to understand what's happening in the system."

At an elementary school, flushing typically takes 2-3 hours, Brown said. Water is then allowed to stagnate overnight before an additional sample is taken, and a third sample is taken at various points, drawing a full liter of water to determine if there are issues deeper in the buildings' plumbing.

Water testing in Flint schools comes as broader testing across the city has shown steady improvement during the last 18 months.

In January, a DEQ executive announced that the city's "water quality is restored" after testing for the Lead and Copper Rule showed 90 percent of 134 samples collected were at or below 6 ppb.

The state is continuing to pay for bottled water supplied to the city for distribution outside schools, and Weaver has said she wants that arrangement to continue until health professionals and school officials agree that tap water is safe to drink.

Students in Flint schools drink bottled water supplied through donations from Walmart, Coca-Cola, Nestle and PepsiCo. The district has said it's secured a continued supply of water through at least June.

In a news release Tuesday, the DEQ says that in addition to 97.2 percent of tests having less 15 ppb or less of lead, 96.2 percent were at or below 10 ppb, 92.6 percent were at or below 5 ppb — the standard for bottled water, and 66.7 percent of tests showed no lead.